



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

News Release 06-68

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## **Corps closes Bennington Lake recreational access to assist Columbia County fire fighting efforts**

**WALLA WALLA, Wash.** – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials temporarily closed Bennington Lake to recreational visitors today to allow safe access for helicopters filling water buckets from the lake to support fire-fighting efforts near Dayton, Wash., in Columbia County, Walla Walla District officials announced.

Bennington Lake will reopen to the public once helicopter water bucket operations cease. Officials from the U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Walla Walla Ranger District, requested use of the lake water to help fight several fires that were started Monday night by lightning strikes. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources emergency management officials are coordinating fire fighting operations with the Corps, the U.S. Forest Service, and county and city agencies, according to U.S. Forest Service officials in Walla Walla.

Corps officials will inform the public of any changes to access of its recreation facilities via the news media.

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